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power to approve or reject these. This right is subject to an appeal from the decision of the commission to the Supreme Court. The commission is to maintain a constant oversight in regard to the pools, and if discriminations arise the pool offending is to be annulled.

While Mr. Langstroth's recommendation that there should be an appeal from the decision of the commission is justified by the fact that otherwise a dangerous power would be conferred upon the commission, it at the same time leaves a defect that would go far to neutralize the force of this proposed amendment. If there is no provision with reference to the finality of the testimony presented before the commission in such cases, then it will simply mean, as it does at present, that when the case comes up before the court on appeal, that the findings of the commission will go for naught. The recommendation of Mr. Stilz that powers in regard to maximum and minimum rates should be in the hands of the commission is subject to criticism from the standpoint of expediency. A power to affix amendatory maximum and minimum rates, the railway being, so to speak, on its good behavior, would lessen the difficulties in connection with this phase of policy, while at the same time obtaining the end desired.

Both essays present thoughtful treatment of the central problem of the transportation question of today. Both are stimulating. The statement of Mr. Knapp that "they are a valuable contribution to railway literature, and will be read with interest and profit by all who desire accurate knowledge of railway history and correct views of railway regulation," will command the approval of those who acquaint themselves with them.

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A Tabulation of the Factory Laws of European Countries, in so far as they relate to the Hours of Labor and to Special Legislation for Women, Young Persons, and Children. By EMMA BROOKE. London: Grant Richards, 1898. 8vo. pp. 521.

THE tabulation is intended for three classes of persons—the expert, the student, and the so-called practical men and women of affairs—as a guide to facts. The laws of the following countries, regulating the employment in factories of women, children, and young persons, are tabulated and explained: France, Belgium, Holland; Germany,

Austria, Hungary ; Denmark, Sweden, Norway ; Russia, Italy, Spain ; Portugal, Switzerland (federal) St. Gall (cantonal) ; Great Britain and Ireland. The points tabulated are as follows : dates of earliest factory legislation ; dates of laws in force ; to what places the laws apply ; age of admission of children ; duration of working day ; concessions as to duration of work ; restrictions on night work ; concessions on night work ; compulsory holiday and Sunday rest ; restrictions as to mines and dangerous trades and excessive labor ; regulation of the hours of men's labor ; Sunday rest for men.

Although a small volume, it is much more than a handbook for reference. With the introduction and notes—conveniently grouped according to countries—as guides, the reader will find in the table a good cross-section view of European sentiment regarding the obligation of the state to protect women, young persons, and children against the economic system of the time. The author cautions the reader against too hasty conclusions from the tabulation. So well has she stated the warning that it should be applied to any study of factory or other legislation. The study of factory acts will be fruitless if taken apart from their context—the context being the conditions of the country to which they apply. Factory legislation must not be accepted as giving a bird's-eye view of the condition of the working classes in any country. A law may read well on paper, while failing to touch an extended portion of industrial oppression in the country. The sphere of influence of a law is not limited to that precisely defined by the law, for it may operate in a way not directly contemplated by the legislator. A law may overstep its own designed effect.

In legislation concerning the hours of labor a picturesque preconception of the thing itself and how it came about is apt to take possession of the mind. The popular assumption is that the protective arm of the law throws itself invariably in compassion over the child *first*, extends itself *next* to the weakness of the young person and the woman, and only finally finds an object in the man. A closer examination of the facts does not present this sequence as by any means invariable *in old countries*, even where modern legislation is concerned.

Two columns deserve special mention here : age of admission and duration of working day for children. In the French-speaking countries children are admitted at twelve, to work from ten to twelve hours a day. In the three German countries the age limit is one year higher, the maximum of hours from six to ten. The Scandinavian

countries require educational and medical qualifications at twelve, and six is the maximum number of hours. Children may work in factories at nine for eight hours a day in Italy; at ten for five hours a day in Spain; at twelve for eight hours a day in Russia.

A comparison of England's law with those of Russia and Spain is instructive, and may be humiliating:

	Russia	Spain	England
Age of admission of children	<p>12</p> <p>But if not possessing a certificate of education, must attend school for 18 hours a week up to 15 years of age.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11, if an educational test is obtained. In factories a medical certificate is necessary under 16. Children of 11 to 13 years must attend school either twice on alternate days or once every day when working in the morning or afternoon brigades.</p>
Duration of working day	<p>8 hours in 24 for those under 15. Must not work more than 4 hours without rest. In certain industries may work for 6 consecutive hours, but then the working day must be 6 hours only.</p>	<p>5 hours for boys 10-13 years, and for girls 10-14. Education for 3 hours a day is compulsory up to these ages in state school.</p>	<p>In textiles, non-textiles and workshops the ordinary period is defined as between 6 a. m. and 6 p. m., or 7 a. m. and 7 p. m., or 8 a. m. and 8 p. m. Exceptionally the Secretary of State may alter the hours to between 9 a. m. and 9 p. m. Children of 11-14 on alternate days, or on the half-time system. Hours of alternate days are 10 with 2 hours rest.</p>

The book is one that will prove serviceable to secondary schools as well as to universities.

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